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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 002484

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/20/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [RS](#) [GG](#)
SUBJECT: TFGG01: DEMARCHE ON STATUS OF U.S. MILITARY
EQUIPMENT IN POTI, GEORGIA

REF: STATE 89314

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Eric Rubin for reasons 1.4 (b,d)

11. (C) We delivered reftel demarche and the list of U.S. military equipment in Poti to MFA North America on August 20, following the Ambassador's August 19 discussion of this issue with Deputy Foreign Minister Karasin. The MFA reaffirmed DFM Karasin's commitment to look into the issue. DATT delivered reftel demarche and the list of U.S. military equipment in Poti to the MOD, who also agreed to look into the matter. However, in an August 20 press conference, Deputy Chief of General Staff Anatoliy Nogovitsyn said that Russia did not see any reason to return U.S.-supplied weapons seized in Georgia, commenting that "all U.S.-made weapons are legitimate war trophies which will be thoroughly studied and most likely destroyed, but not returned to Georgia." We will continue to press this issue with senior GOR interlocutors, underscoring that the equipment in question is U.S. property.
BEYRLE